
◆ The Olive Press ◆

GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN CHURCH

AUGUST 2012

COUNCIL

President:

Laura Britzius

Vice President:

Lyle Johnson

Secretary/Treasurer:

Carl Perkins

Properties:

Ernie Butenschoen

Lutheran Liaison:

Tom Lewis

Evangelism:

Shar Giard

Worship:

Liz Blohm

CYFF Formation:

Karla Hills

CYFF Formation:

Christina Riehl

Community Action:

Hal Hingst

Stewardship:

Dick Bemrose

Fellowship:

Kim Stoffregen

STAFF

Pastor:

Tom Hiller

Child/Fam Min:

Maureen Hagen

Preschool Dir.:

Katie Strobel

Finance Mgr.:

Cathey Myers

Parish Admin.:

Judith Rykken

Choir Director:

Cameron Herbert

Organist:

Brooke Benfield

Custodians: Dale &

Anne Van Horn

PASTOR TOM'S LETTER

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Recently, an editorial appeared in the Oregonian entitled "Liberal Christianity – Ever changing, ever dwindling" by Ross Douthat. The author claimed that the reason liberal Christian denominations are losing members is because they have adopted a liberal social agenda without being clear about distinctive Christian beliefs.

Mr. Douthat included "Lutherans" in his list of liberal Christian groups. Some might quibble with his inclusion of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (ELCA), Gethsemane's denomination. Be that as it may, we certainly are more liberal than the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod (LCMS).

Yes, the ELCA has been losing members, but more slowly than the other groups that Mr. Douthat mentioned: the Episcopalians, the Presbyterians, and the Methodists. But then several conservative denominations, including the Southern Baptists and also the Missouri Synod, have been losing members also.

Which churches are losing members and why has been the subject of many books for the last couple of decades. There are many theories. Mr. Douthat mentioned only one. Whether or not we agree with him on some of his claims, I agree that we as a denomination and as a congregation do need to be clear about our Christian beliefs along with whatever social concerns we have or social actions we might engage in.

In other words, the reason that we are concerned about the causes of hunger and poverty; a just immigration policy; equal rights for all races, genders, ages, and sexual orientations; and the problem of just war and just peace, along with many other issues, is precisely because we believe in God, who became a human being in Jesus Christ, who has reconciled us with God through his death and resurrection, and who calls us and enables us through the Holy Spirit to be fully involved in this world with all its problems.

I consider it to be part of my personal calling as a Pastor to make the connection between our Christian beliefs and our social concerns very clear. I encourage you as a congregation to do the same. We will probably disagree among ourselves about how exactly to address the social concerns. We may also disagree about some matters of Christian belief. But I pray that we have unity in the essentials of our Christian faith. If we are not clear about the connection between our teachings and preachings about the Gospel on the one hand and our social concerns and actions on the other, then we are no different from other social agencies or groups as Mr. Douthat warns.

If we are able to keep the connection clear, there are still no guarantees that we will grow as a congregation or denomination. There are so many factors at work. But we can be sure that God calls us into mission in the world, that God promises to enable and equip us in that mission, and that God promises to walk with us in that mission.

In the Mutual Ministry of Jesus Christ, Pastor Tom

Pastor Tom will be at Confirmation Camp at Camp Lutherwood from the afternoon of Sunday, July 29 through Friday, August 3.

BE A VISIONARY -- SUPPORT OUR CAUSE!

This year our congregation has undertaken its largest financial project in decades. We voted twice (in January and July) to support needed upgrades in our facility to keep us able to be "A Caring Church in a Changing Community." We are following our stated Vision. It's a time of hope and excitement as we move forward.

To help make this vision a reality, please consider a three-year S T R E T C H pledge of support!

Many in the congregation have already made their pledges. All of the Council members, the Campaign Core Team and other leaders have stepped out in faith to meet this challenge. So far, a total of \$197,640 has been pledged against a total goal of \$450,000.

If you have not yet made your pledge, please do it now. Maybe a weekly amount works best for you -- or a monthly payment -- or a quarterly -- or even a yearly one. Pick up a brochure and pledge card from the table in the narthex. Pray about it. Make your S T R E T C H pledge. If you have any questions, contact one of the Campaign Core Team: Carol Law, Dick Bemrose, Shar Giard or Mary Curtis.

Do what you can. Do your pledge. Drop it in the golden box in the narthex. Do it now!

JULY COUNCIL HIGHLIGHTS

This council meeting was more of a gathering to discuss the community hall project and how it will affect the daily, weekly, and monthly routines that we are all used too. Now that the building is emptied, thanks to Dale Van Horn and his workers, we wait for the permits. Waiting is one of those things that I'm not very good at so I'm practicing really hard. I'm sure by now you've seen the container on the property holding our things. You've also seen chairs and tables in the narthex as well as the sheet-covered organ tucked in the back of the sanctuary. By now there might even be a display of photos documenting the coming project on the bulletin board over the shelf in the narthex, thanks to Al Marsh and friends. Another container will be ordered for September for additional items not yet in storage. We hope to have the main building area open and cleared of displaced items. We discussed September and the start-up time for preschool and Sunday School and just where these groups will be holding classes and activities. We will provide for their needs.

During this capital improvement process additional items needing repair continue to surface. It was recommended that Properties Director Ernie Butenschoen create a plan of action to get repairs made over the next few years. Watch for this plan and see if there is a way in which you might help.

We have made arrangements for some of our building guests to continue to meet in different areas of the building. During this time, we need a back-up building host (Tori Hiller has graciously agreed to host part of the time) to open the building, stay during the meeting, and lock up afterward. This is a paid position. If you are interested, please call the church office.

Please see a draft of the minutes in the narthex for additional information.

I want to take a moment to thank everyone for their generosity towards the capital improvement project. It takes my breath away. I feel so blessed to be part of this family. Thank you all!

God bless you, Laura Britzius, GLC President

MEET OUR NEWCOMERS

Jan Brown first met Pastor Tom early in his ministry when he became pastor at Pilgrim Lutheran, where she was a member. At one time, her daughter was a baby-sitter for Pastor Tom and Lisa. That was long ago, but recently when she was looking for another congregation nearby with an early worship service, she was so pleased that Pastor Tom was back in Portland and at Gethsemane. If you worship at 8 a.m. almost any Sunday, you will see her. Though she's retired now, Jan spent 30 years as a surgery nurse in Providence Medical Center. She grew up in Lohrville, Iowa, where her dad taught agriculture. She got her nursing degree from Moline Lutheran Hospital. Eventually, she and her husband camped across the country with their two-year-old daughter Elizabeth, ending up in Portland where her husband found a job as a caseworker in social services and they settled down to stay. Though the marriage ultimately ended in divorce, Jan and the children stayed in Portland. Currently her son Andrew is between jobs and living with her, while her daughter Elizabeth is married and lives in Dallas, Oregon with Jan's three grandchildren. Each one is spending a week with Grandma this summer! Jan enjoys gardening and loves to read mysteries. She's glad to be at Gethsemane enjoying Pastor Tom's ministry again.

Erika Rasmussen brought her children to Gethsemane after a recommendation from a friend whose children had attended preschool here. Since they live near the church, it works out fine. During the school year, Ericka works for the Oregon City School District in a literacy program for kindergartners and during the summer she occasionally does some child care. When fall comes, her oldest son Alec, 14, will start at Oregon City High School. (Her mother lives in Oregon City also.) Her other children are Jack, 6; Sydney, 4 and Cooper, 2. Rounding out the family are two dogs -- a pit/poodle and a maltese/schnauzer. During the school year, husband Kelly is the house parent and this works out well right now. Busy as she is, Erika has plunged right into church activities. She's on the preschool board, accompanied the beach mission trip with the older children, has recently taught Vacation Bible School and is interim nursery coordinator for the summer. "We love being at Gethsemane. There is a sense of family and welcome here, and that's so important for the children."

FAITHWORKS: CHILD, YOUTH, & FAMILY FORMATION

The biggest news in July was the success of Day Camp/VBS. The Camp Lutherwood staff led the Day Camp (grades 1-6) and they were great! Our preschool VBS was overflowing. Most important, we had a fantastic response from the congregation. **Karla Hills and Christina Riehl** did a huge amount of prep work. We also had two experienced teachers – **Randi Bateman and Mary Baxter** (both newcomers to GLC) – who stepped forward to serve as the preschool teachers for the entire week. That is such a blessing. Here are some of the others who have volunteered:

Kendall Belmont	Diane Bemrose	Dick Bemrose
Kevin Blohm	Liz Blohm	Ernie Butenschoen
Kim Butenschoen	Alec Eason	Marilee Hansen
Gloria Kelsay	Sharon Lee	Erika Rasmussen
Jay Rector	Judy Rust	Mandie Schie
Clara Shortt	Kim Stoffregen	Katie Strobel
Jacque Williamson	Jasmine Yuen	

Several others brought food: **Ginny Barton, Randi Bateman, Liz Blohm, Lois Boro, Ernie Butenschoen, Marilee Hansen, Arloa Hurt, Denise Johnson, Carol Law, Sharon Lee, Cathey Meyers, Julianne & Alicia Quigley, Lee & Clara Shortt,** and **Reese & Joyce Woods. Clara & Lee Shortt and Hal Hingst & Priscilla Nelson** stepped forward to provide housing for the staff and **Laura Britzius & Mary Curtis, Bill & Cameron Herbert, Bob & Carol Law, and Roseann Libonati** served as dinner hosts. Well done, Gethsemane! (And profound apologies to those whom I missed!)

UPCOMING EVENTS: CHILD, YOUTH & FAMILY FORMATION

At the end of July, four GLC youth (Alec, Brandon, Logan, Tyler) will be attending Confirmation Camp at Lutherwood with Pastor Tom and Dick Bemrose. Please hold them in your prayers.

August is full of activities for our kids. If you'd like to help out with driving or chaperoning, please let me know.

- * 8/5 – **Youth Event: Pool Party in NE Portland** (5:30-8:30) (\$3/youth) This event is cosponsored by Augustana Lutheran and St. Philip Episcopal. It involves a youth-led service, pool party (Dishman is reserved for us), barbeque and ice cream social.
- * 8/7 - Traveling Tuesday. **Gethsemane does...Portland Children's Museum** (0-8 years) [\$3/youth]
- * 8/11 - **Youth Event: Oaks Park.** (5 to 10 p.m.) Followed by an Overnight at St. Luke's.
- * 8/14 - Traveling Tuesday. **Gethsemane does...the Oregon Zoo** [all ages - \$4 each]
- * 8/19 - **Ice Cream Social** at 11:45 to have a conversation about families @ Gethsemane. **Bowling at Rose Bowl** from 12:30 to 2 (\$3)
- * 8/21 - Traveling Tuesday. **Gethsemane does...OMSI, with submarine and/or OMNIMax** (all ages/\$3 each)
- * 8/28 - Traveling Tuesday. **Gethsemane does...Swimming @ East Side Center** (all ages/\$3 each)

Please continue to hold the children, youth, and families of Gethsemane in your prayers.

Yours in Christ, Maureen Hagen

Minister of Child, Youth, and Family Formation

August Birthdays

2 Bev Sperling
 3 Kelly Garrett Irby
 8 Grace Hurlman
 Annie Strobel
 15 Roger Vidlund
 16 Ethel Marsh
 Laura Kahler
 18 Travis Halvorson
 20 Burke Strobel
 Adam Johnson
 22 Roberta Vidlund
 Rob Cumming
 26 Jay Rector
 29 Don Giard

August Anniversaries

2 Joe/Shirla Rapp (#32)
 8 Kraig/Linda Fletcher (#42)
 9 Todd/Peggy Sloan (#43)
 14 Bob/Carol Law (#59)
 14 Burke/Katie Strobel (#19)
 15 Ernie/Kim Butenschoen
 (#31)
 15 Harvey/Carol Steele (#53)
 22 RJ/Susie Treanor (#3)
 27 Dale/Ann Van Horn (#36)

Prayer Concerns—Ongoing: *Those who are ill, homebound, or in need of other prayers:* Joan Ward; Marian Aleckson; Karen Stenberg; Maureen Hagen's friend Beth; Alfhild Anderson; Jerry Tilkens; Bea Jarvie; George Willett; Cathey Myers' friend Beth; Tiffany Herbert; Roberta Vidlund's friend Terry; Penny Thoreen; Scott Morency; Linda Babcock and her grandson Justin; Vera Koosman; Dick Boro; Katherine Eshleman; Stan Johnson; Ralph Nelson & his great niece Amelia; Norm Thoreson; Rita Nesbit's son John; Galvin & Virginia Irby; Roseann Foster-Mikhail's mother Rose; Butenschoen's friends Rebecca & Norm; Darlene Lewis' mother Margie; Bemrose's friend Todd; Sharon Lee's niece Terri; ; Nettie Ubrick's nephew Troy & her friend Tim; Randy Treanor; Karen Arendt; Roland Haacke; Michelle McGilvray; Carol Steele; and Wynn & Jim Stafford.

Homebound Brothers & Sisters

Lucille Langseth Pacific Gardens, 17309 NE Glisan St., #402 Portland 97230 503/256-0553
Karen Stenberg, 15521 SE Meadowlark Ln. Milwaukie 97267
Vera Koosman, 1280 NE Kane Dr. #211, Gresham, 97030, 503/661-0538
Norm Thoreson, Fairlawn Village, 1280 NE Kane Dr, Apt. 34, Gresham 97030, 503/912-1973

Urgent: *Those who are ill:* Kayda Carpenter; Aiden Lindstrom; Kent Cumming; Cathey Myers' friends Max, & JR & his wife; George & Louise Fogg; Virginia Haacke; Julianne Quigley's friend Mandy and son Zane; Colleen Barnett's friend Camille; Joni Pokorny's father-in-law George; and Beth Deters.



Save a tree! Save a stamp!
 Please send us your email if
 we don't already have it.

Gethsemane Lutheran
 Church Newsletter
 11560 SE Market
 Portland, OR 97216
 Pastor Tom Hiller
 (503)256-1835
 glchurch@acweb.com
 www.glcportland.org
 Church Office Hours:
 Mon-Thurs. 8a to 3p

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
 AUGUST 2012 GETHSEMANE LUTHERAN <hr style="border: 2px solid green;"/>			1 5:30-7p- ClutterAnon. 8:45a-Text Study Confirmation Camp July 29 thru August 3	2	3 <i>Office Closed</i>	4 12:30p- RecovInc.
5 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour 5:30-8:30p- Youth Pool Party	6 10a-B-Team	7 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study a.m.-Children's Museum	8 5:30-7p- ClutterAnon. 8:45a-Text Study	9	10 <i>OfficeClosed</i>	11 12:30p- RecovInc. 5-10p-Youth Oaks Park and Overnight
12 8&10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour	13 6:30p-Finance Mtg.	14 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study 5p-Mutual Ministry a.m.- Washington Park Zoo	15 5:30-7p- ClutterAnon. 8:45a-Text Study 7p-Church Council	16	17 <i>OfficeClosed</i>	18 12:30p- RecovInc.
19 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour 11:45a-Ice Cream Social 12:30-2p- Bowling	20	21 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study a.m.-OMSI	22 5:30-7p- ClutterAnon. 8:45a-Text Study	23	24 <i>OfficeClosed</i>	25 12:30p- RecovInc.
26 8 & 10:30a- Worship 9:30a-EdHour	27	28 8a-Men's Breakfast 10a-Bible Study a.m.-Swimming	29 5:30-7p- ClutterAnon. 8:45a-Text Study	30	31 <i>Office Closed</i>	Sept 1 12:30p- RecovInc.

Offering, Income & Budget Report through MAY 2012			
Income Needed	Received	Actual Expenses	Difference
\$178,332	\$174,526	\$160,000	\$14,526
Weekly Attendance:	2012: 153	2011: 140	CATHEY MYERS, FIN. MAN.